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A MULTICAST ROUTING METHOD AND AN APPARATUS  
FOR ROUTING A MULTICAST PACKET

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

2 This application relates to U.S. Patent  
Application Serial Number 09/257003, <sup>now U.S. Patent 6,580,717</sup> filed on February  
25, 1999 based on Japanese Patent Application Number  
5 10-046739 filed on February 27, 1998, U.S. Patent  
Application Serial Number 09/614715, <sup>now U.S. 6,490,669</sup> filed on July 6,  
2000 based on Japanese Patent Application Numbers 8-  
291480 and 9-212889, and U.S. Patent Application Serial  
Number 09/421275 filed on October 20, 1999 based on  
10 Japanese Patent Application Number 10-299613, all of  
which are assigned to the present assignee. The  
contents of those applications are incorporated herein  
by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention relates to an IPv4-IPv6  
multicast communicating method and an IPv4-IPv6  
multicast communicating apparatus in a communications  
network system. More particularly, it relates to a  
method and an apparatus for implementing the multicast  
20 communication between an IPv4 terminal using IPv4  
(i.e., Internet Protocol Version 4) as the communica-  
tions protocol and an IPv6 terminal using IPv6 (i.e.,  
Internet Protocol Version 6) as the communications

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